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Aruban baseball players will return to Senior League World Championships to defend their title



Latin American Senior League Champions with PM Mike Eman

chance to show their mettle against this powerhouse team one more time and bring home the victory.

Aruba is the third team to qualify for this year's world championships; Asia Pacific champion Tanauan City, the Philippines, and Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, winner of the Europe-Middle East-Africa regional, have also earned their places in the games, which begins Aug. 14 and run through the final game for the World Champion title on Aug. 20. Aruba is scheduled to play the opening game of the series.

The team arrived home on Sunday evening around 10:30 P.M. to be congratulated personally by Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, Minister of Finance, Environment and Utilities, Mike de Meza, and Little League District Administrator for Aruba, Elio Heronimo, along with thrilled friends and family at their returning again with the district championship title.

by Rosalie Klein



PM Mike Eman and Baseball Bond President Elio Heronimo welcome the players home

The Senior League Baseball Latin Championships in Mexico City ended on Saturday,

July 9 with Aruba's team winning the title for the third consecutive year, and the right to

return to the Senior World Championships in Bangor, Maine.

The team consists of many of the young players who won last year's "World Series" for baseball players 16-14 years of age, and their triumph in Mexico clinched their place at this year's event to defend their title as Senior League World Champions. Aruba earned its third consecutive title by defeating previously unbeaten Venezuela with an 8-3 victory in the final game of the Latin Division, having lost to their team in a previous match. Aruba went 3-1 in regional pool play, and then defeated Guatemala 11-0 in the semifinals. Venezuela, who was 4-0 in pool play, defeated Curacao

12-2 in their semifinal game, giving the Aruban team a

Chavez doesn't have colon cancer or need chemo



CARACAS, Venezuela - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez does not have colon cancer and does not currently need chemotherapy, his former vice president said, without detailing Chavez's exact condition.

Chavez staged a triumphant return to Venezuela last Monday after cancer surgery in Cuba but doubts remain as to whether he is strong enough to run the OPEC nation and whether he will be able to have a full-scale campaign for the 2012 presidential election.

"He is sick but he is not gravely ill," Jose Vicente Rangel said. "I know that the cancer he has is not colon (cancer) and that for the moment he will not need chemotherapy."

One source close to Chavez's doctors said the president does have colon cancer and will undergo chemotherapy treatment that could last several months.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Pakistan defiant as US halts \$800 mln military aid

ISLAMABAD, (AFP) - The Pakistani military on Monday insisted it was capable of fighting Islamic militants without US assistance, hitting back after Washington said it would suspend \$800 million worth of security aid.

"The army in the past as well as at present has conducted successful military operations using its own resources without any external support whatsoever," military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP.

US President Barack Obama's chief of staff, William Daley, confirmed in a television interview that the United States has decided to withhold almost a third of its annual \$2.7 billion security assistance to Islamabad.

Abbas, however, said the military had not been officially informed of the decision to suspend aid.

Relations between the key

allies in the war on Al-Qaeda drastically worsened after US commandos killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan on May 2, humiliating the Pakistani military and opening it to allegations of complicity or incompetence.

Abbas referred AFP to an extraordinary statement issued by army chief of staff General Ashfaq Kayani on June 9 as part of the bin Laden fallout which recommended that US military aid be redirected towards civilians.

The US aid freeze was welcomed by Pakistan's neighbour and rival India.

The suspended aid includes about \$300 million to reimburse Pakistan for some of the costs of deploying more than 100,000 soldiers along the

Afghan border, according to The New York Times.

Pakistan says it has 140,000 soldiers in the northwest, more than the 99,000 American troops in Afghanistan, fighting a local Taliban insurgency.

The United States has long called on Pakistan to do more to crack down on militants, such as the Al-Qaeda-linked Haqqani network, who use its soil to attack within Afghanistan, but the army says its troops are too overstretched.

But the relationship is complicated as the US uses Pakistan as a sea port and land corridor to truck about 50 percent of its military supplies into Afghanistan, although Taliban and other militants routinely attack the convoys.

Canada boycotts UN disarmament body over N.Korea

OTTAWA (AFP)-Canada is boycotting the UN Conference on Disarmament in protest after North Korea took over the rotating presidency of the body, Foreign Minister John Baird said Monday.

"I think what we'll do is simply withdraw and boycott any activities of the conference until after August 19," Baird said. "The bottom line is, that with respect to disarmament, North Korea has been a rogue regime."

Pyongyang holds the rotating presidency of the UN body from June 28 to August 19 and has said it is ready to

engage with it on nuclear arm control talks, which have been in a deadlock for the last two years.

But Canada wanted to take "a tough line," Baird said in a telephone press conference, adding it was not good for this conference "if a country like Canada just remains quiet."

Canada is the only one of the conference's 65 members to have taken such a hard line.

North Korea, which has tested two nuclear bombs, stormed out of six-nation denuclearization talks in 2009 when it accused the United States of hostility.

Second Murdoch paper hacked British ex-PM Brown: reports

LONDON, (AFP) - Britain's former prime minister Gordon Brown may have had his phone hacked and bank account breached by The Sunday Times, another newspaper owned by Rupert Murdoch's media empire, police said Monday.

The allegations broaden the scandal over widespread phone hacking by the News of the World, which was shut down at the weekend by News International, Murdoch's British newspaper publishing operation.

Brown's spokesman said the family was "shocked" when police told them of the new claims. Police told Brown that private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, who was working for News International, hacked his phone and accessed his personal bank account when he was finance minister.

The BBC and The Guardian newspaper also re-

ported that The Sunday Times had targeted Brown when he was finance minister, obtaining private medical, financial and property details.

The BBC said someone acting for The Sunday Times posed as Brown and obtained details of his account at the Abbey National bank in January 2000, in relation to a story about a flat he had bought from late media mogul Robert Maxwell.

The Guardian reported that The Sun said Brown was targeted over a period of 10 years, both as finance minister and prime minister. Brown was at the Treasury from 1997 to 2007, before his three-year spell as Britain's premier.

Reports on Monday said the News of the World also allegedly paid British royal protection officers for details about Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family.



MARI, (AFP) - Huge blasts in a seized Iranian arms cache at a Greek Cypriot naval base in southern Cyprus killed at least 12 people on Monday, triggering power and water outages likely to last months. The commander of Cyprus's navy, Andreas Ioannides, was among the dead, as was the commander of the Evangelos Florakis base, Lambros Lambrou, police and the National Guard said in a joint statement. Four other members of the armed forces and six firefighters also died. The early morning explosions devastated the adjacent Vassiliko power station in what Commerce Minister Antonis Paschalides called a "tragedy of Biblical dimensions" for the small Mediterranean island. The plant produces almost 60 percent of the country's electricity supply. Massive damage was caused to homes in the nearby village of Mari, forcing the evacuation of its 150 residents, the village headman told AFP. Government spokesman Stefanos Stefanou said 62 people were injured, two of them seriously, and announced three days of official mourning.

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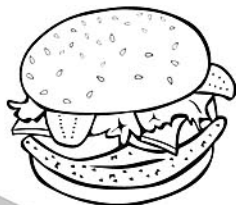
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Department for Labor Advancement (DPL) concludes weeklong registrations successfully!



ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Labor, Otmar Oduber, expressed satisfaction for the manner in which the new department for Labor Advancement ((Departamento di Progreso Laboral)) conducted its week long registration process.

During the past week of registrations about 1200 persons registered as job seekers at the 12 registration centers. The next step is to analyze the registrations and ascertain which types of jobs these people want and at the same time to get a clear picture as to which of those who regis-

tered are unemployed at the moment.

They will have an indication as to whether those who registered are young people just out of school, older folks who have difficulty finding work on account of their age, or if these are persons who have difficulty holding down a permanent job. This information, according to Oduber, is crucial in helping to delineate what kind of procedure to follow for business owners requesting work permits for persons from abroad.

Contrary to the past, employees of this new department -DPL-, will not be seated behind a desk 8 hours a day listening to clients. They will be more proactive and on the road communicating with human resource departments. They may even visit employers accompanied by job seekers and attend interview sessions together with them; so doing learning first hand why they have not been hired.

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Working towards getting more women into sports!



Minister of Public Health and Sports, Richard Visser, recently met with the board and sponsors of the Dutch Womens' Football team (Nederlands Vrouwenvoetbalelftal).

The Minister's objective was to negotiate with this organization to get them to send a team to Aruba next year to train female footballers here and to help promote more participation of women in sports on our island.

Reportedly only about 10% of women in Aruba are active in a sport. This, according to Visser is an extremely low percentage. Visser's ministry along with his departments and athletic organizations are working diligently to encourage more women to get involved in some type of sport and become active. Football is the one sport that has the best participation of women in Aruba. Bringing the "Oranje Leeuwinnen" of the Dutch Womens Football team to Aruba to offer training would be a tremendous encouragement for those already active in football; and at the same

would be a tremendous stimulus to woman who would love to learn to play football.

We know that sports have a positive effect on communities. Among others, people practicing in sports are usually dedicated to their education and are intent on finishing school. It has been proven that sports play an important role in motivating young people to focus on their future, hence preventing early teen pregnancies. Sports also serve as one of the tools that help to prevent the use and abuse of drugs.

"Women in sports" has become a popular theme worldwide, even the International Olympics Committee (IOC) has a special commission to address all issues relative to



the participation of women in sports.

We do well to continue to explore this avenue for the women of Aruba. Nederlands Vrouwenvoetbalelftal, best known as the "Oranje Leeuwinnen" is the football team that represents the Netherlands at games and international tournaments such as the European Cup games. Since March 2011 this team is at the 14th position on FIFA's world ranking order.

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INTERPOL Americas conference enjoys a cocktail under the stars at Divi Village, Seabreeze restaurant

Senior police Chiefs attending INTERPOL's 21st Americas regional Conference, enjoyed 3 days of meetings at the Westin Aruba Resort, laced with social functions flavored by genuine island hospitality.

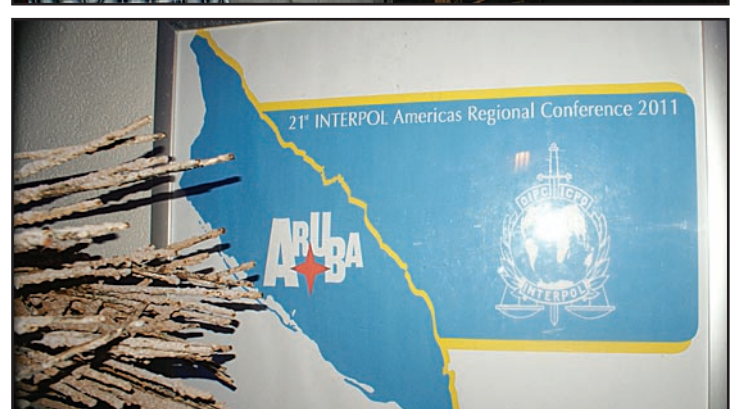
The conference welcome cocktail party unfolded at Divi Village, on the tropical pool deck, and was catered by the popular Seabreeze restaurant. The party was co-hosted by the Aruba Tourism Authority and by the Ministry of Justice.

CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes welcomed all delegates to Aruba on behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, inviting them to also enjoy a bit of a vacation while on the island on business and networking opportunities.

Aruba's Minister of Justice and Education Arthur Dowers who also attended the party and served as one of the key note speakers during the conference, mingled with the top policing officials, more than 70 senior law enforcement officials from 32 countries and three international organizations.

Delegates were also welcomed by the local Commissioner of Police Adolfo Richardson.

Pictured here INTERPOL guests enjoying themselves at the Divi Village.



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KLM to be swallowed up by Air France



-- Dutch flag carrier KLM appears to be poised to lose its autonomy within the Air France-KLM group because of changes in the corporate structure, the Telegraaf reported yesterday, without quoting sources.

The paper says within the new structure, KLM will become the responsibility of a general director, who will report directly to a 'top management layer, primarily made up of French nationals.'

The new structure has been made necessary by the integration of Italian airline Alitalia in 2013. KLM was taken over by Air France in 2004.

The paper says Schiphol airport authority is watching developments closely because of fears that the change could impact on the airport. KLM accounts for over half of aircraft movements at Schiphol.

Keep your face always toward the sunshine -
and shadows will fall behind you.

Walt Whitman

Department for Labor Advancement concludes...

Continued from page 3

They will also offer training courses via Enseñansa Pa Empleo for those who may have difficulty with interviewing for work.

They will also offer training courses via Enseñansa Pa Empleo for those who may have difficulty with interviewing for work.

The Minister also informed that the DPL website is very interactive. It is possible to visit this website at any moment and find what job functions are available at any given moment, and which companies are looking for employees, etc. Companies with expansion plans will also advertise the new functions they will have to fill for their expansion program.

Aruban students completing their education abroad will be able to publish infor-

mation about their planned return to Aruba and advertise their particular areas of expertise. This will greatly facilitate their job search. Potential employers can contact them directly via the site.

Even though the registration in the barrios has ended, those seeking a job can always visit the Department of Labor Offices and register there. As of August 1st the Offices of DPL will be open at Seroe Blanco. The Minister indicated that about 2 years ago unemployment was at 10% on Aruba, but in the past two years this has decreased considerably. However, according to Oduber, one unemployed person is too many, and it is for this reason we are working diligently to ensure that everyone is employed."

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Sci-Tech

ISPs, movie, music, TV groups in copyright deal

Major US Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and music, movie and television industry associations unveiled a long-awaited agreement on Thursday aimed at curbing online copyright infringement.

The Copyright Alert System calls for ISPs to send a series of email notices to Internet subscribers whose accounts have been identified by content owners as illegally downloading music, movies or television shows.

After five notices, subscribers could be subject to "mitigation measures" by an ISP, including temporarily reducing their Internet speed or redirecting their account to a landing page with information about copyright infringe-

ment.

The voluntary agreement does not oblige the ISPs to take punitive action, which they have been reluctant to do in the absence of a court order.

ISPs will not provide customers' names to content owners and subscribers can seek an "independent review" to determine the validity of an infringement claim.

"This alert system does not, in any circumstance, require the ISP to terminate an Internet subscriber's account," said The Center for Copyright Information, a new group founded by the ISPs and entertainment associations.

Sci/Tech-briefs

Overuse of C.Asia's Amu-Darya a threat to stability: UN

The over-exploitation of the Amu-Darya river which snakes across Afghanistan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, could threaten the long-term stability of the region, the UN said Monday. The problem dates back to the Soviet era, when a massive cotton growing programme was launched by Moscow, sapping up water and releasing pesticides and fertilisers into the river. In addition, plans to build hydropower stations could add further pressure on the 2,500 kilometres of waterway across central Asia.

France to fund Morocco's solar energy plan

A French minister said Monday that Paris was allocating 103 million euros (146 million dollars) to help finance Morocco's solar energy plan.

Industry and Energy Minister Eric Besson made the announcement on a visit to Rabat where he met his Moroccan counterpart Amina Benkhadra.

He said the funds would be disbursed by the French Development Agency for a project he described as "the centerpiece of the Mediterranean solar plan".

Morocco announced in 2009 it was launching a project to produce 2,000 megawatts of solar-generated electricity at a cost of nine



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Belgium's highways shine into space - but for how long?

BELGIUM -- When Belgian astronaut Frank De Winne feels homesick when in space, all he needs to do, provided it's night, is look down for the bright spot for even nowadays, Belgium keeps its highways switched on.

The almost 100 percent illumination of the country's highways can indeed be seen from space with a telescopic lens, said European Space Agency (ESA) spokesman in the German city of Cologne.

But down on earth, the mood is changing and Belgium soon may not shine so brightly.

Almost no other country on earth can currently afford such a luxury, and as energy-saving and cost-cutting measures bite, even Belgium is beginning to consider a switch-off. Another exception is its tiny but wealthy neighbour, Luxembourg, which too offers almost 100-percent lighting on its 150 kilometres (93 miles) of highways.

Belgium currently turns on 335,000 lights fitted to 150,000 lampposts on its motorways and main roads every evening.

In the economically struggling southern French-speaking region of Wallonia, 750 kilometres of the 860-kilometre grid are lit up at night. In the wealthier Dutch-speaking north, Flanders, the roads are 100 percent illuminated, according to transport ministries from both regions.

But officials are beginning to look at the cost.

Cash-strapped Wallonia



last year paid out 9.5 million euros for 105 gigawatt-hours of electricity for road lighting -- to produce that amount of electricity a standard nuclear reactor would need to run for about four days.

The kingdom's affection for road lights dates to concerns some 60 years back -- the post-World War II period when more and more families were buying cars -- over spiralling fatalities on roads at night.

In the 1950s, the Wallonia transport ministry said, while only a quarter of road traffic took place after nightfall, more than half of fatal casualties occurred during the night.

Lamps were therefore introduced "mainly for safety reasons, all the more since energy costs seemed reasonable at that time," a recent ministry report said.

Twenty years later, exits and drive-ups were illuminated too as planners sought to spare drivers the constant change from darkness to light.

But the apparent benefits for road safety have come under question. The Belgium Institute for Road Security (IBSR) offers mixed conclusions in a recent report.

While lighting was installed "with the best of intentions", it presents "a certain number of more or less important inconveniences", it says.

And lampposts in many cases have turned out to be "extremely rigid and dangerous obstacles" responsible for more than 18 percent of fatalities involving obstacles, the report added.

Conservative European parliamentarian Peter Liese, a member of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) -- Chancellor Angela Merkel's party -- who works on the implementation of European energy efficiency targets, says the European Union cannot force Belgium to switch off the highway lighting.

But the new energy efficiency regulations which have already led to the abolition of old-style light bulbs in households also apply to street lighting, he said.

And already, the lights on the highways are dimming.

In 2008, southern Wallonia reduced the number of hours lights were turned on from 4,050 a year to 2,350. In northern Flanders, a report is due for release any time soon that is expected to question the overall idea.

Should the switch-off begin, Belgian astronauts will lose a beacon.

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Health & Living

First drug-resistant gonorrhea strain emerges



Penicillin is no longer considered the standard treatment because it was previously found to be ineffective in some cases.

For the first time, international researchers have identified a strain of gonorrhea that is resistant to treatment with antibiotics, scientists announced at a sex disease research conference Monday.

The common bacterial infection, often called the "clap," has until now been easily treatable with antibiotics but if left alone can cause infertility in women and painful urination and a pus-oozing infection in men.

"Since antibiotics became the standard treatment for gon-

orrhea in the 1940s, this bacterium has shown a remarkable capacity to develop resistance mechanisms to all drugs introduced to control it," said Magnus Unemo of the Swedish Reference Laboratory for Pathogenic Neisseria.

Details of the discovery were to be released by Unemo and colleagues at the 19th conference of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Disease Research, on from July 10-13 in Quebec City, Canada.

Since the finding is so new, scientists are unclear how widespread the resistant strain may be in the world population, but concerns are mounting that it could spread quickly.

As many as 700,000 people in the United States alone are believed to get gonorrhea annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Up to half of infected

women experience no symptoms, while men usually see signs of infection within two to 30 days.

"Anyone who has any type of sex can catch gonorrhea," according to the US National Institutes of Health, which notes however that risks are higher among people with multiple partners and people who have unprotected sex.

"Gonorrhea is more common in large cities, inner-city areas, populations with lower overall levels of education and people with lower socioeconomic status," added the NIH.

People who suspect they may be infected should see a doctor in order to obtain a prescription and should not attempt to treat the problem themselves, experts say.

The current treatment recommended by the CDC is an single dose pill of an antibiotic called cefixime, or a single dose of azithromycin (Zithromax) for people who are allergic to penicillin, ceftriaxone or cefixime.

22 stone man seeks legal right to obesity surgery

A 22 stone former police officer who was denied the right to obesity surgery will take his case to the Court of Appeals on Monday.

Tom Condliff, says he needs the stomach operation to save his life but the North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust has ruled that his body mass index is not high enough to entitle him to funding for a gastric bypass operation.

The 62-year-old a grandfather from Staffordshire says the "irrational" decision violated his rights under the Human Rights Act.

Condliff became obese because of drugs taken to treat long-term diabetes. He says he would rather avoid the "very unpleasant" surgery, involving removing part of his intestine and stomach, but without it his life is in danger.

He suffers from 13 illnesses, takes 28 different drugs and uses breathing masks and inhalers. His weight has spiralled out of control in recent years as a result of medication.

Specialists have told him a gastric bypass operation would

not only help him shed pounds but could also control his diabetes, leading to other ailments fading away.

The High Court was told that, at 6ft 2ins, his 22 stone (139 kg) weight gives him a BMI (body mass index) of 43kg/m2 (6.7 stone/m2), not high enough to qualify for surgery where he lives, although it would in the area of a neighbouring NHS trust.

Condliff has tried non-surgical interventions including dietary and lifestyle changes and also drug treatments, but all were unsuccessful, the court heard.

More than half a billion men and women -- nearly one in nine of all adults -- are clinically obese, according to research by a team from Imperial College London, Harvard and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Supported by his GP and specialists treating him, Condliff applied for funding in February last year on the grounds that his case was "exceptional".



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Stunning setting and remarkable talent combine for a spectacular sunset concert at: La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



The most spectacular spot for a sunset concert

The noteworthy Italian restaurant situated on the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse was the venue for a most congenial evening of music and fine food, punctuated by the spectacular vista from the terrace of La Trattoria El Faro Blanco this past Saturday evening, July 9.

Owners hosted the concert as a community service; talented Aruban performer Angelo Koolman needs to raise the funds to dedicate his time to compete in a Dutch version of "American Idol," for which he learned he was selected after the preliminary auditions a few months ago.

Angelo, a very popular and charismatic singer known to audience for his lead role in "Let's Go Latin," in the Crystal Theater and now as a regular in Cilo Lounge in Oranjestad, decided to try his luck when the call went out to all corners of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He was recently informed he made the cut, and was presented with a quandary: how to get by in Holland for the 3 or 4 months required to compete, while leaving behind his work on Aruba?

Angelo's very good friend, Edjean Semeleer, an extremely popular young baritone in his own right, and a savvy concert promoter, came up with the idea of a unique fundraising concert with a particularly memorable ambiance, which for him meant only one venue:

La Trattoria El Faro Blanco restaurant.

The spectacular sunset recital, "Angelo Unplugged" was a singular success; the terraces of the restaurant were filled with fans of the two handsome young singers, and they did not disappoint. This was Angelo's opportunity to show what he could do, but it was natural for Edjean to lend his talents to this delightfully entertaining evening.

"I love the ambiance and surroundings of La Trattoria," expressed Edjean, "this is perfect for our kind of music and our audience; we are very pleased with the turnout and reception to the idea. I am very happy to encourage and support Angelo in his career; he is a great talent that deserves this chance."

The melding of lovely location, mellow music, and fine food has both Edjean and the restaurant thinking about continuing such events on a regular basis. Fortunate patrons, who came to their favorite place for dinner on Aruba to discover this additional perk on Saturday evening, were pleasantly surprised and quite enthusiastic about more such concerts in these beautiful surroundings.



Angelo performing at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Edjean performing

THE MORNING NEWS wishes Angelo great success in his bid for stardom in Holland; we all look forward to seeing this dynamic Aruban singer in the finals, at the very least!

by Rosalie Klein

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Wikileaks reveals US-Dutch extradition stalemate

-- The US and Dutch authorities have been caught up in a 13-year-long extradition stalemate according to confidential US diplomatic cables published by WikiLeaks. The cables published by Wikileaks in 2005 show the Netherlands refused to extradite Dutch businessman Frerik Pluimers to the United States, where he is wanted on bribery charges.

The Dutch foreign minister at the time Ben Bot had asked the US to withdraw its extradition request. Washington refused, and the Netherlands eventually rejected the request in 2008.

US authorities accuse Mr Pluimers of approving bribery payments to Panamanian officials in 1995. Their permission was needed to move the offices of his company, Saybolt Interna-

tional, to a new location in one of the Panama Canal's free-trade zones. The payments, made from the Netherlands, were approved under the name 'Capo Grande Holanda', which insiders say refers to Mr Pluimers.

His business partner at the time, David Mead, was sentenced to four months in prison and fined 20,000 US dollars.

In 2003, the Council of State, the Netherlands' highest administrative court, approved Mr Pluimers' extradition. However, the US diplomatic cables show that then minister of justice Piet Hein Donner decided against the extradition because of "the opposition of other members of the cabinet."

A spokesperson for the Dutch justice ministry has

confirmed that the extradition request was rejected on 23 June 2008, stating: "The personal circumstances of Pluimers were such that the minister saw fit to refuse the request."

A spokesperson for the US Justice Department said that the US was not going to let the matter rest, stating "The Dutch government's rejection of our request does not affect the validity of the underlying case, or our options to request the extradition of the accused from other countries."

Although Mr Pluimers is accused of bribery, the case originated as an environment offence according to the New York Times.

US diplomats say that Mr Pluimers "enjoyed great respect in the Dutch diplomatic and business community."



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Awards for Achievement at El Gaucho Restaurant



At the end of a 6-week Wente Vineyard Incentive program Nancy Bazan a member of the dining room staff at El Gaucho Restaurant, received two Awards of Excellence on behalf of Wente Vineyards. Her colleague, Fernandez Nilton, was the overall winner of the program, receiving a nice gift certificate for Ling and Sons Super Center.

Eric Wente himself, on a recent visit to the island invited the famously friendly and professional crew of the El Gaucho restaurant for a challenge when he set up a 6-week incentive program designed to increase the sales of some of his most favorite wines among them Tamás Estates Pinot Grigio Central Coast California, and from the Wente Vineyards collection: Morning Fog Chardonnay, Livermore Valley, Riverbank Riesling, Monterey, Crane Ridge Merlot, and Southern Hills, Cabernet Sauvignon, both from Livermore Valley.

The El Gaucho team did not disappoint Eric Wente and produced great results, pairing fabulous food with fine wine, enhancing the total enjoyment of restaurant patrons.

One of the most important aspects of Wente Vineyard's grape growing operation is its adherence to the principles of sustainable agriculture. The Wente Family has officially defined these innovative programs with a trademark phrase: Farming for the Future.

Founded in 1883, Wente Vineyards is America's oldest, continuously operated family-owned winery. Today, the winery maintains its leadership role in California winegrowing under the ownership and management by the Fourth and Fifth generations of the Wente family.

Pictured above Nancy Bazan and Fernandez Nilton with Erick Wente and Joost Röben, Arion Wine Company, representing Wente Vineyard on the island



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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Jammies
4. District in London
8. Lock up
12. ___ Gehrig
13. Booby ___
14. Social misfit
15. Cosmos
17. Landers and Jillian
18. Peaceful protest (hyph.)
19. Automobiie
21. Person, place, or thing
24. Collide
28. Questionable
31. Snack
33. Korean auto company
34. Was just what was needed (3 wds.)
37. Retirement benefit agcy.
38. Mrs. Dithers
39. "Do ___ others..."
40. Web-footed animal
42. TV award
44. Teen's eye-rolling retort
46. String quartet member
50. Early video game
53. Appearing in a film
56. Garfield's canine pal
57. Currency unit in France
58. Part of history

59. Societal newcomers
60. Corset stiffener
61. In place of

DOWN

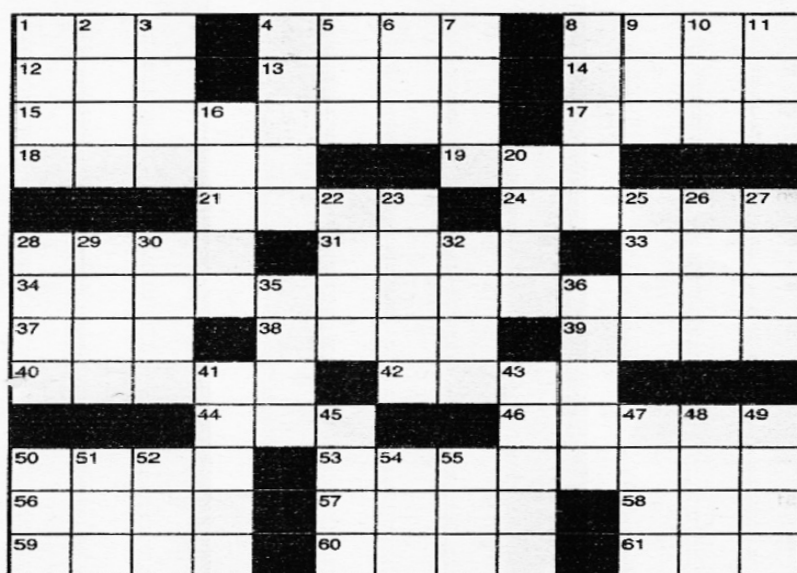
1. Advantage
2. Singer/songwriter Mitchell ("Both Sides Now")
3. Simon's "Plaza ___"
4. Note taker, for short
5. Hockey's Bobby
6. Owns
7. Oil cartel (abbr.)
8. Tangle
9. Coop inhabitant

10. Big coffeepot
11. Football scores (abbr.)
16. Floor covering
20. Dull, steady pain
22. Cancel
23. ___ Dame de Paris
25. Related
26. Deposit of mud
27. Anaheim Angels symbol
28. In that event (2 wds.)
29. Brawler's weapon
30. Not carbonated
32. Decorative pillow cover
35. Beige

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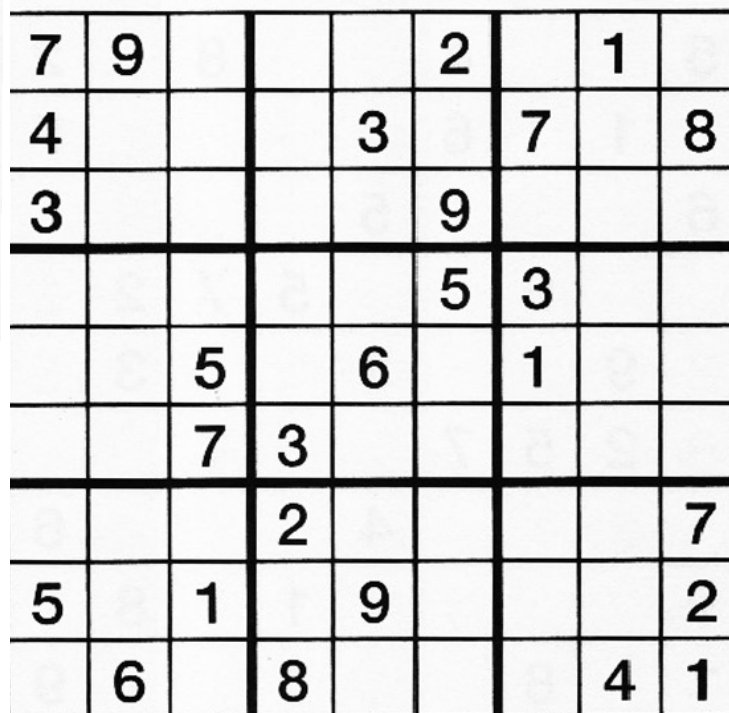
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	7	6	2	9	8	5	9	2
2	8	9	7	6	9	1	2	9
3	9	9	5	1	2	6	7	8
4	8	9	1	7	5	2	2	9
5	2	1	8	9	2	9	5	6
6	2	5	9	2	6	7	8	1
7	9	2	6	2	7	8	1	5
8	6	2	9	5	1	2	9	7
9	1	4	2	8	9	9	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

European stocks slump

LONDON(AFP)-European stock markets slumped on Monday, with banks hit by increasing signs that the eurozone debt crisis is spreading to Italy, as EU policymakers headed to an urgent meeting on Greece.

In London, BSKyB shares slumped more than seven percent on turmoil over the British satellite broadcaster's future.

In late afternoon deals, London's FTSE 100 index of top shares dropped 1.17 percent to 5,920.66 points, Frankfurt's DAX 30 shed 2.49 percent to 7,218.78 points and in Paris the CAC 40 index lost 2.84 percent to 3,802.52.

In Milan, Italy's leading FTSE Mib index dived 4.40 percent to 18,210 points, while Madrid's IBEX-35 tumbled 3.0 percent to 9,640.50.

The market on Wall Street dived in opening trading on Monday amid signs of a deepening European crisis, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 0.85 percent in the first half-hour of trade.

Italian stocks also dropped sharply and the financial regulator imposed tougher rules on short-selling in a bid to prevent speculators from targeting the eurozone's third-largest economy.

The long-term cost of borrowing for Italy and Spain

reached record high levels on Monday on concern that the eurozone debt crisis could spread to these two countries, traders said.

The rate on 10-year bonds issued by Italy rose to 5.5 percent and on Spanish 10-year debt to 5.9 percent. These rates were at the highest levels since the creation of the eurozone.

In Brussels on Monday, eurozone leaders were set to head off fresh worries of debt crisis contagion by seeking to iron out widening differences over

the outline of a new Greek rescue package.

In late afternoon foreign exchange trade on Monday, the European single currency dived as low as \$1.4011.

That was the lowest point since May 24 and compared with \$1.4258 late in New York on Friday.

The Brussels talks will focus on the question of possible private-sector involvement in a second bailout of Greece - with a deal not expected before September.

Eurozone woes hit US stocks

NEW YORK, (AFP) - US stocks plummeted Monday as worry about Europe's worsening debt crisis clouded markets already walloped Friday by sour US economic data.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 151.44 points (1.20 percent) to 12,505.76.

The broader S&P 500 shed 24.31 points (1.81 percent) to stand at 1,319.49, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite dropped 57.19 points (2.00 percent) to 2,802.62.

Friday's announcement that the US economy had pro-

duced almost no new jobs in June, and that the unemployment rate rose to 9.2 percent, continued to weigh on investor sentiment as well.

All 30 Dow blue chips were in the red, and big banks took heavy hits: Bank of America lost 3.3 percent, JP-Morgan Chase fell 3.2 percent and Citigroup lost 5.3 percent.

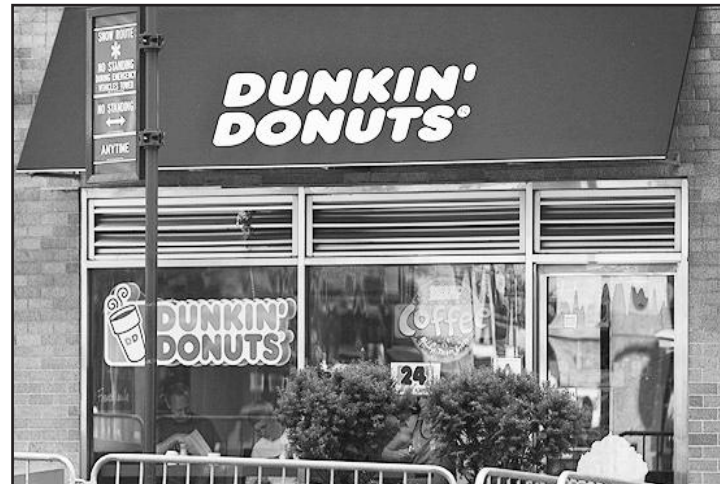
The European crisis sent US bond prices higher -- despite the continued debt-and-deficit talks impasse in Washington, now just three weeks before the country could be forced to into default.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.92 percent from 3.02 percent late Friday, while that on the 30-year bond fell to 4.21 percent from 4.28 percent.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	P	O	S	T	E	W	A	D	A
R	E	V	T	A	X	I	W	R	A
E	W	E	U	N	I	T	H	I	R
R	I	N	K	S	J	E	A	N	S
M	I	S	S	S	T	R	A	Y	
E	V	E	N	S	S	I	C	N	A
N	E	A	T	E	N	B	O	Y	I
U	S	S	D	O	G	B	E	T	T
N	A	V	E	L	T	R	I	M	
L	E	M	O	N	R	A	T	I	O
E	C	R	U	A	B	B	Y	G	O
T	H	I	N	T	I	E	R	E	L
S	O	S	A	L	L	A	N	E	T



NEW YORK, A Dunkin' Donuts store is seen in midtown Manhattan on July 11, 2011 in the New York City. Dunkin' Brands Group Inc., the parent of Dunkin' Donuts, plans to raise as much as \$401 million by selling its initial public offering of 22.3 million shares, which are expected to fetch between \$16 and \$18.

AFP/Photo

Vietnam wins WTO anti-dumping case against US



A Vietnamese shrimp farm is pictured at the salty water-hit district of My Xuyen in southern province of Soc Trang

GENEVA(AFP)-Vietnam scored a victory Monday in its first challenge at the World Trade Organization against the United States over anti-dumping measures imposed by Washington on frozen shrimps.

The trade watchdog found that Washington's use of the so-called zeroing method to calculate dumping margins were "inconsistent" with international trade rules, and must therefore halt such action.

The United States has lost

several major cases at the WTO related to the zeroing method -- which involves counting negative values as zero when calculating an average -- including against Brazil and the European Union.

According to complainants, the zeroing method allows Washington to increase its estimate of the degree of dumping on its markets.

Dumping involves the sale of items abroad at less than the cost price in their domestic market.

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demon-

strating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit



Dame Judi Dench wins 15 mln yen award



Princess Hitachi of Japan (L) speaks with British actress Judi Dench at a press conference in central London.

Dame Judi Dench said she was "overwhelmed" as she accepted one of the art world's most valuable awards on Monday.

The actress, whose film roles have ranged from James Bond to Pirates of the Caribbean, was named one of five new Praemium Imperiale Laureates at a ceremony hosted by the Japan Art Association at Claridges Hotel in London.

She said: "I feel overwhelmed. I've been to Japan twice with the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) and I made a lot of really good friends."

The award, which is worth 15 million yen (£115,000) and is sponsored by the Japanese royal family, will be formally presented at a ceremony in Tokyo in October.

Lord Patten, who is the

UK adviser for the prize, said Dame Judi is "one of Britain's greatest actors and certainly most popular and beloved actors".

The actress said she had no idea what she would spend the money on.

Another recipient was sculptor Anish Kapoor, who has been commissioned to make a work for the 2012 Olympics.

Asked what he would spend the prize money on, he joked: "Olympic tickets."

Previous winners include David Hockney and Richard Attenborough.

The Southbank Sinfonia, an orchestra for young musicians in London, and the young writers programme at the Royal Court Theatre in London will share a five million yen (£36,000) grant for young artists.

American artist Bill Viola, Mexican architect Ricardo Legoretta and Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa were also named as laureates.

Monaco's new princess joins Tutu in South African charity



Monaco's new Princess Charlene urged people to do good, as global peace icon Desmond Tutu welcomed her as co-patron of a group of 10 charities in her native South Africa.

"I'm so honoured to be here today to accept this patron-

age," the former Charlene Wittstock told a ceremony in Cape Town.

"I was thinking earlier, how can you give back without doing anything. We have to all give in our own way."

The royal joined Nobel Peace Prize laureate Tutu as co-patron of The Giving Organisation Trust, made up of 10 charities that focus on issues ranging from HIV to children and environmental protection.

"We are very thrilled because you have a heart," Tutu told the former South African Olympic swimmer.

"It shows that you care and we just want to say a very big thank you to God for you, that you should have wanted to use your celebrity for other people,

on behalf of other people."

She came to Cape Town after a party the previous evening where she hosted nearly 500 guests at the Oyster Box, a luxury hotel in the Indian Ocean resort town of Umhlanga. The princess said it was "great being back home".

With his trademark charisma, Tutu told the princess that she already looked regal in photographs, complimented her "serene highness" title and said that she was beautiful after hugging her in welcome at a local clinic in a shantytown.

"I'm taking him home," the princess pronounced, laughing after he later told the audience they were all lovely.

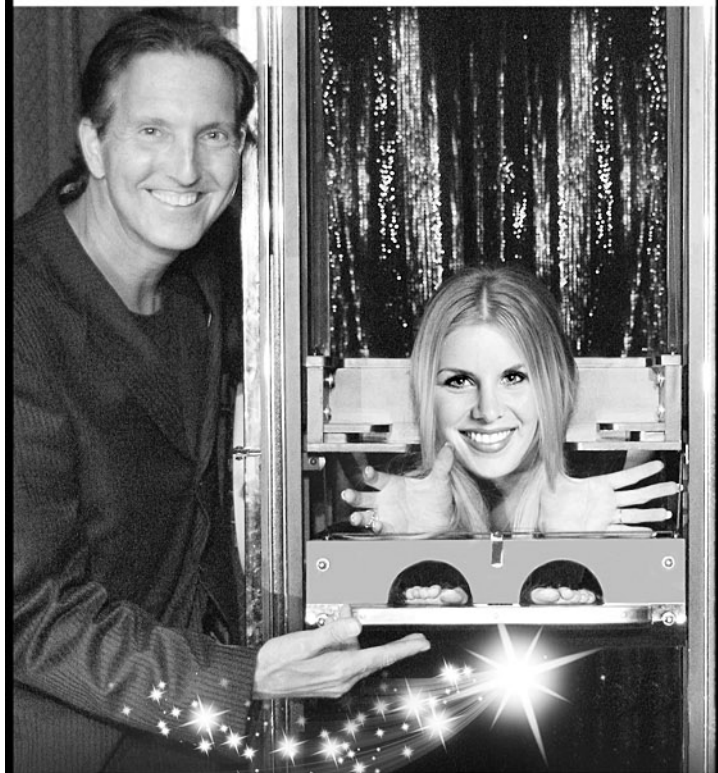
"They would say we are a mutual admiration society," Tutu said.

The princess and her husband Prince Albert II arrived in South Africa on Tuesday for their tour which has been described as part honeymoon and part business trip.

Albert, a member of the IOC, took part in Wednesday's election of the 2018 Winter Olympics host city, which saw Pyeongchang, South Korea beat out Munich, Germany and Annecy, France.

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STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

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Meet Jamichael Brown of Longview, Texas. Local authorities are still determining if Jamichael has officially set the state record. With 16lbs, 1 oz, and 24" long, he is about the size of the average baby at three to six months of age. Jamichael's parents, Janet Johnson and Michael Brown has three other girls. His mother had gestational diabetes, and the newborn is currently staying in the neonatal intensive care unit so that doctors can monitor his blood sugar levels. He is otherwise healthy, and as soon as his blood sugar is regulated he'll go home.



**Please remember to
check your breasts
every month**

Copa America - July 1 - 24



Uruguay have work to do at "weird" Copa

LA PLATA (AFP) - With Chile and Peru unexpectedly setting the pace in Group C of the Copa America, World Cup semi-finalists Uruguay have it all to do if they are to reach the quarter-finals.

A win over Mexico in La Plata today is needed after the Charruas made a slow start in what coach Oscar Tabarez has called a "weird" tournament.

Despite talents such as Liverpool's Luis Suarez and Atletico Madrid's Diego Forlan to call upon the Celeste have been suffering from the strange affliction which has hit holders Brazil and hosts Argentina at the event to date -- an inability to win games.

Brazil coach Mano Menezes made the Uruguayans, who have won a joint record 14 continental titles with Argentina but none since 1995, his outside bet for glory.

But a draw with Peru was not the start that Tabarez wanted and an ensuing stalemate with Chile left the Uruguayans two points off the leading Pacific pair.

Should the Uruguayans win and their rivals cancel each other out they could end up with five points and yet, depending on goal difference and average, come third in



the group.

However, it is likely that scenario would still see them through as the two best third-placed finishers in the competition's three groups will advance.

Tabarez admitted Sunday the tournament was not panning out the way he had wanted or expected.

"It's unusual the way things are going at the moment. It's weird to imagine a Copa America where Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay or Uruguay go out in the opening phase. And it's a surprise to see Argentina, Brazil, as well as Uruguay and Paraguay not winning either

of their opening two games," he added.

"But I am sure the team will go out and fight for the result we need against Mexico.

The Mexicans, meanwhile, have seen their gamble of blooding a young side after the seniors won the Gold Cup backfire in terms of qualification after losing to Chile and Peru.

But the idea was to garner experience ahead of the 2014 World Cup qualifying programme.

One of their more experienced names, Gold Cup winner Giovanni Dos Santos, told reporters that "we must keep our heads up and do as well as we can. As long as there's hope we must keep plugging away."

Chile, Peru see shift in Latin power balance

Chile and Peru meanwhile go into today's Pacific 'clasico' group encounter seeking to show the balance of power is shifting westwards in the Latin American game.

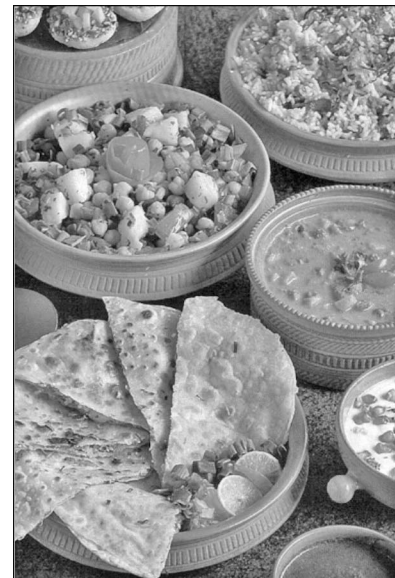
Chile are yearning to go one better than four final defeats while Peru want a return to the heady days of the mid-1970s when a skilful side landed the 1975 Copa and then reached the second phase of the ensuing World Cup.

With young talents emerging, both countries are determined to make up for lost time but first will look to put one over the neighbours in Mendoza.

The Chileans have been almost playing at home, with more than 30,000 fans trekking over the border to watch a come-from-behind victory over Mexico and the draw with Uruguay while Peru also held the Uruguayans before sending the Mexicans packing.

Chile might easily have lost their way after the well-respected Marcelo Bielsa, who led them to the World Cup finals last year after a decade-long absence, resigned over a disagreement with the federation authorities.

While Bielsa embarks on a new adventure with Athletic Bilbao in Spain Claudio Borghi has taken up the baton and is continuing his predecessor's attacking style with the likes of Alexis Sanchez and Arturo Vidal both in impressive form.

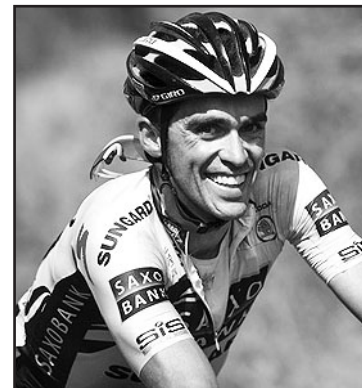
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Contador in race against time as Pyrenees approach



about his deficit, claiming he always has the 20th and penultimate stage time trial in which to close any gap.

"I'm really not too preoccupied with the time I've lost because we still have the final time trial of the race," said Contador, whose time trialling skills in recent years have allowed him to cement victories he mostly built in the mountains.

And he believes the Schleck will have to also concern themselves with Evans, who is having a great race so far and is a strong time triallist himself.

"It's really too early to make any conclusions about any of my rivals but Evans is looking good, so is Basso and of course the Schleck brothers.

"I would put the Schlecks and Evans on an equal footing as far as the threat goes, although the Schlecks are a bit more dangerous because they can play off each other.

"But Evans is in a good position and he's strong in the time trial, so the Schlecks need to attack him as well.

"They (Schlecks) have been at the front of the race a lot this week, but so far we haven't seen anything yet."

Contador added: "I will take it day by day, depending on how things are going with my knee, I will decide when I'm going to attack."

FRANCE--Reigning champion Alberto Contador is putting a brave face on a disappointing Tour de France campaign which has left him in a race against time to get fit for key stages in the Pyrenees.

Contador hampered an existing pain in his right knee during his fourth crash in eight days on Sunday's ninth stage, the second in the Massif Central.

The Spaniard, who has won all six Grand Tour in which he has competed in, finished the stage with all the yellow jersey favourites but still has a deficit of 1min 30sec to Andy Schleck and 1:41 to Cadel Evans.

Schleck and Evans have shared the last four runner-up places on the race and, despite the threat of Italy's Ivan Basso, they are likely to be the Spaniard's biggest obstacles to a fourth yellow jersey.

At a rest day meeting with media on Monday Contador said he is not too worried

GROUP A	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
COLOMBIA	2	1	0	3	0	7
COSTA RICA	1	0	1	2	1	3
ARGENTINA	0	2	0	1	1	2
BOLIVIA	0	1	2	1	5	1

GROUP B	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
VENEZUELA	1	1	0	1	0	4
PARAGUAY	0	2	0	2	2	2
BRAZIL	0	2	0	2	2	2
ECUADOR	0	1	1	0	1	1

GROUP C	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
CHILE	1	1	0	3	2	4
PERU	1	1	0	2	1	4
URUGUAY	0	2	0	2	2	2
MEXICO	0	0	2	1	3	0

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South Korea's Ryu wins US Open in playoff



COLORADO SPRINGS, (AFP) - Ryu So-yeon captured the US Women's Open on Monday by rolling in two birdies in a three-hole aggregate playoff to edge South Korean compatriot Seo Hee-kyung.

It was the first major title for Ryu who forced the playoff with a birdie on the final hole of regulation in the weather-plagued tournament at the Broadmoor course. "Unbelievable," said Ryu, who is the fifth South Korean to capture the US Women's Open. "I can't believe it."

After darkness halted the fourth round play on Sunday, Ryu returned Monday morning needing a birdie over the last three holes to force a playoff with Seo. Seo finished a day earlier at three-

under 281.

Ryu made the birdie on No. 18, then began the playoff 30 minutes later.

Both players parred the first playoff hole and then on No. 17 Seo hit into a sand trap on the right side of the fairway. She finished the hole with a bogey.

Ryu put her drive on 17 down the middle of fairway and went on to birdie the hole for a two-stroke advantage.

Defending champ Paula Creamer closed with a 75 to finish in a tie for 15th.

Mass exodus hits MLB all-star game

PHOENIX (AFP) - Major League Baseball's 2011 all-star game has been hit with a mass exodus of players as two more players pulled out Sunday bringing the total of no shows to 16 so far.

Eight players bowed out Sunday after six pitchers were declared ineligible because they played in games on Sunday.

Philadelphia infielder Placido Polanco withdrew because of a bad back and Tampa pitcher David Price pulled out because he is suffering from "turf" toe.

Former MLB player John Kruk said some players have a legitimate reasons for not playing in the summer showcase but others might be skipping the game for the wrong reasons.

"The guys elected by fans should be at all-star game

whether they can play or not," said Kruk. "If you were one of the most popular players in the vote you should be there at the all-star game."

Sixteen all-stars won't appear in today's all-star game, including 13 of the 68 originally chosen.

The missing is a who's who of MLB, including the Yankees' trio of Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Mariano Rivera. Rodriguez will have right knee surgery Monday and could be out for up to six weeks.

The Yankees' CC Sabathia, the Rays' James Shields, the Detroit Tigers' Justin Verlander, the Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez, the Philadelphia Phillies' Cole Hamels and the San Francisco Giants' Matt Cain all were knocked out because of their starts.

Kolobnev expelled from Tour after positive test

LE LIORAN (AFP) - Russian cyclist Alexandr Kolobnev became the first rider to be kicked out of the Tour de France on Monday after an A sample from the Katusha rider tested positive for a banned substance.

A statement from cycling's governing body the UCI (International Cycling Union) said a urine sample taken from Kolobnev in-race on July 6, had tested positive for Hydrochlorothiazide.

The UCI statement said:

"The UCI has informed the Russian rider Alexandr Kolobnev, 30, of an abnormal finding (presence of Hydrochlorothiazide according to a report submitted by the WADA-accredited laboratory in Chateau-Malabry) from a urine sample taken during the Tour de France on July 6, 2011.

A diuretic, hydrochlorothiazide is listed as a banned substance because it can also be used to mask other drugs.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	55	35	.611	--
NY YANKEES	53	35	.602	1.0
TAMPA	49	41	.544	6.0
TORONTO	45	47	.489	11
BALTIMORE	36	52	.409	18

Central

DETROIT	49	43	.533	--
CLEVELAND	47	42	.528	0.5
CHICAGO	44	48	.478	5.0
MINNESOTA	41	48	.461	6.5
KANSAS	37	54	.407	11.5

West

TEXAS	51	41	.554	--
LA ANGELES	50	42	.543	1.0
SEATTLE	43	48	.473	7.5
OAKLAND	39	53	.424	12.0

National League

East

PHILADELPHIA	57	34	.626	--
ATLANTA	54	38	.587	3.5
NY METS	46	43	.505	11.0
WASHINGTON	46	46	.500	11.5
FLORIDA	43	48	.473	14

Central

MILWAUKEE	49	43	.533	--
ST. LOUIS	49	43	.533	--
PITTSBURG	47	43	.522	1.0
CINCINNATI	45	47	.489	4.0
CHICAGO	37	55	.402	12.0
HOUSTON	30	62	.326	19.0

West

SAN FRANCISCO	52	40	.565	--
ARIZONA	49	43	.533	3.0
COLORADO	43	48	.473	8.5
LA DODGERS	41	51	.446	11.0
SAN DIEGO	40	52	.435	12.0

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Sneijder refuses to rule out move



NETHERLANDS--Netherlands midfielder Wesley Sneijder, said to be a target for Manchester United and Malaga, has admitted that he is prepared to leave current club Inter Milan should they accept a bid for him.

"Of course, if the club decides to sell, I'll go where they tell me to go, but I would be sad to leave," Sneijder is quoted as saying in an interview with the Italian edition of Vanity Fair magazine.

"My wife and I are happy in Milan, and I would miss Inter, but that's football. When Real Madrid sold me to Inter, at the time I wanted to stay in Spain."

Inter last week agreed a deal to sign young Argentine midfielder Ricky Alvarez from Velez Sarsfield, seen as a potential replacement for Sneijder.

However, the club's new coach Gian Piero Gasperini, speaking at their pre-season training camp in Pinzolo in the Italian Alps, has said he is confident that the playmaker will stay put.

"Sneijder is a great player, a top player. His approach has been more than positive. He is here and he wants to remain with us."

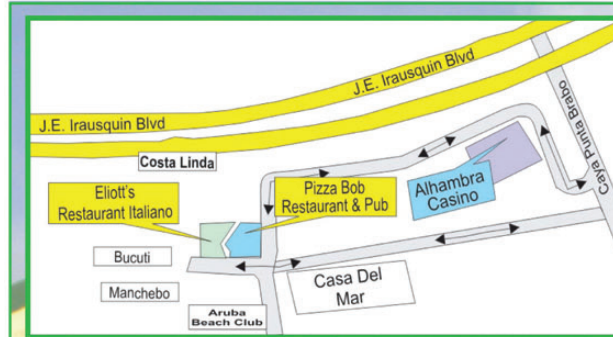
Manchester United assistant manager Rene Meulenstein, himself a Dutchman, said last week that he "could not think of a more ideal player for our team", and former United defender Gary Neville echoed those comments.

"He is a great player who has played at some great football clubs like Real Madrid and Inter and it won't faze him coming here", he said.

"He would be a great signing, but I'm sure that there are a number of clubs that are looking at him. I hope that Manchester United get him, but I don't know whether that will be the case."

In addition, press reports last week suggested that Malaga, owned by Qatari sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Thani, were prepared to offer up to 40 million euros (\$56 million) for the player.

Malaga have already flexed their spending muscle this summer, making eight new signings including Spanish international winger Joaquin from Valencia, France midfielder Jeremy Toulalan from Lyon and Sneijder's compatriot and one-time Real Madrid teammate, Ruud Van Nistelrooy.



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FIFA mum on World Cup 2022 'whistleblower'

PARIS (AFP) - FIFA made no comment on the retraction of claims by a former bid official who alleged that Qatar paid bribes to three FIFA members to secure the World Cup in 2022.

Phaedra al-Majid, who worked as a press officer for Qatar 2022, told the BBC on

Sunday she wanted to avenge losing her job on the campaign, but now had decided to go public to admit that the allegations had been fabricated.

Majid has signed a legal affidavit retracting the allegations and insisted that she had not been put under any

pressure by the Qataris to make her public denial.

World football's governing body said: "FIFA can confirm receipt of an email from a person claiming to have made allegations related to the Qatar 2022 bid process and now retracting these allegations."

"FIFA has no specific comments on this..."

Majid originally said African Football Confederation president Issa Hayatou, Ivory Coast FIFA member Jacques Anomua and Nigeria's suspended official Amos Adamu were paid to vote for Qatar.

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